

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8071

INFO AMCONGEN ASMARA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV ET

SUBJECT: COMPENSATION COMMITTEE APPOINTED

REF: ADDIS ABABA 0186

1. ACCORDING TO THE ETHIOPIAN HERALD OF FEB 6, THE EPMG
APPOINTED A FIVE-MAN COMMITTEE ON FEB 5 TO "STUDY WAYS FOR THE
PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO FORMER OWNERS OF MEANS OF PRODUCTION
AND DISTRIBUTION TRANSFERRED TO PUBLIC OWNERSHIP". THOSE
APPOINTED ARE AS FOLLOWS: ATO BILILIGN MANDEFRO, LT. COMMANDER
LEMMA GUTEMA, DR. KEBEBDE MENEGESHA, ATO LIBSE-TSEHAI GOSHU AND
ATO IBRAHIM YUSUF. DURING THE OATH-TAKING CEREMONY LT. ALEMAYEHU
HAILE, CHAIRMAN OF THE ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE
OF THE PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL, CHARGED THE
MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE WITH "THE TASK OF UNDERTAKING
THOROUGH STUDIES CONCERNING THE FINANCIAL SETUP OF
NATIONALIZED MEANS OF PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION AND DRAWING
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UP THE NECESSARY RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE COUNTRY'S LIMITED RESOURCES".

2. COMMENT.

A. EXCEPT FOR LT. COMMANDER LEMMA GUTEMA WHO PREVIOUSLY SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMISSION OF INQUIRY (SEE BIOGRAPHIC DATA FROM DATED NOV 22, 1974), THE EMBASSY HAS LITTLE OR NO INFORMATION ON THE BACKGROUND, QUALIFICATIONS, ATTITUDES, ETC., OF THE APPOINTEES. NOR IS IT CLEAR WHO HAS BEEN APPOINTED COMMISSIONER (IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT THE COMPENSATION PROCLAMATION CALLED FOR A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF ONE COMMISSIONER AND FOUR ASSOCIATE COMMISSIONERS) ALTHOUGH PRESUMABLY LEMMA WILL BE SELECTED FOR THAT TASK. THE EMBASSY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE APPOINTEES AS SOON AS IT IS AVAILABLE.

B. A DISQUIETING ASPECT OF THE PRESS ANNOUNCEMENT IS THE STRESS IT LAYS ON STUDYING WAYS FOR COMPENSATION PAYMENT. THE COMPENSATION DECREE DID NOT EMPHASIZE A STUDY APPROACH BUT RATHER STRESSED THAT THE COMMISSION WOULD BE EMPOWERED TO NEGOTIATE AND REACH AGREEMENTS WITH COMPENSATION CLAIMANTS. THE EMBASSY INTENDS TO PURSUE THIS QUESTION WITH THE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A CLEAR PICTURE OF THE PROPOSED PROCEDURES AND WILL REPORT ITS FINDINGS.

HUMMEL

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